

### Report of the Ohio State Conference

The conference of the Brethren churches of Ohio convened at Ashland, Thursday morning, June 5 and remained in session until Friday night, June 6, 1902.

#### FIRST SESSION

The conference was called to order by the moderator M. S. White. J. L. Kimmel read John 15 and made the opening prayer.

The moderator then appointed the following committees: On credentials—Dr. Keiser, S. M. Loose and A. D. Gnagey. On committees—J. L. Kimmel, J. A. Miller and C. E. Deffenbaugh. At this time, the usual courtesies of the conference were extended to all ministering brethren and Christian workers present. While the committees were engaged, the time was occupied by singing and short talks from delegates. Prof. Miller was the first to respond and extended warm words of welcome to the conference. We were also glad to hear from S. E. Shook of Dayton, Simon Miksell of Troy and J. H. Burnworth of Fairview.

The committee on committees appointed the following: On program—A. D. Gnagey, J. H. Burnworth and M. A. Witter. On tabulation—Prof. Witter, S. E. Shook and H. M. Oberholtzer.

A partial report from the credential committee was presented and accepted. A motion prevailed that the parochial reports be read. Accordingly we listened to the reading of said reports, after which they were turned over to the committee on tabulation. Conference adjourned.

#### SECOND SESSION

Prof. Furry opened the afternoon session by reading from Romans 12:1-3, after which he led in prayer. The minutes of the previous session were submitted and adopted. Papers and addresses were taken up at this time. Prof. Miller made a stirring address on "The Care of the Churches." The speaker contended for a more thorough and systematic work in the state of Ohio. A careful discussion of the subject led to a motion that a committee be appointed whose duty it should be to amend the present plan of work. Another motion provided that the rules of the conference be suspended and that the chair appoint this committee. Accordingly the chair appointed the following committee: J. A. Miller, W. D. Furry and J. H. Burnworth. The committee retired at once to their work.

At this juncture we heard the report of the Mission Board presented by E. J. Worst. The report indicated that during this conference year \$389.55 had been received and \$257.11 had been paid out leaving a balance in the treasury of \$132.44. On motion the report was adopted.

J. L. Kimmel next addressed the conference on, "How to do more effective Mission work?" The subject was further discussed by Brethren Oberholtzer, Miksell, Cassel, Furry and Gillin.

The report of the committee on amendment on the plan of evangelistic work was now submitted and accepted. The plan as amended stands as follows:

#### SUPERVISION

1. The supervision of the churches of Ohio shall be vested in a Board of Evangelists. Titus 1: 5; II Tim. 4: 5; II Cor. 11: 23; II Cor. 8: 19. Such Board shall be elected by the conference from its Elders and shall consist of three or more members as conference may from year to year determine. This Board shall at each annual conference divide the State into as many districts as there may be members in it.

2. This Board shall have the care of isolated members, keeping a list of their names and addresses, supplying them with church literature, enlisting their support for the institutions of the church.

3. The several members of this Board shall, each in his district, "set in order the things that are wanting in the churches;" act as pastor of all pastorless churches; assist the same to secure pastors;

as far as possible see that the churches are fully organized; assisting in the selection and ordination of elders and deacons; each shall visit every congregation in his district at least once a year, representing the Sunday Schools, Y. P. S. E., College, Publishing House, Missions and other general interests of the church, and execute the plans of this conference.

4. The compensation of their several members shall be fixed by the conference from year to year and the same to be paid by the churches of the several districts.

#### MISSIONS

1. The Mission Board of the State shall be composed of a President, Secretary and Treasurer elected for a term of three years together with the Board of Evangelists as advisory members.

2. This Board shall have charge of the Mission work of the church, being empowered to collect and disburse all funds for such work.

A motion then prevailed that the secretary have a new lot of pamphlets struck on State Evangelistic work, as amended by the committee, and that they be distributed thruout the State.

Expenses incurred by conference to the amount of \$3.52 were presented. An offering was taken amounting to \$5.25 with which said expenses were met. The balance was placed in State Mission fund as suggested by conference.

After a report of the program committee on the evening's work, a motion prevailed for adjournment.

#### THIRD SESSION

The evening session was opened by a thirty minute praise service conducted by J. Elwood Braker. After this J. C. Cassel read the 91 Psalm and led in prayer.

The committee on resolutions appointed Alvin Byers, Simon Miksell and D. F. Eikenberry as a committee on resolutions.

The evening was devoted to Young Peoples' Work. D. F. Eikenberry read a good paper on, "Young People and Bible Study." Another good paper was presented by E. D. Burnworth on, "Young People and Missions." An open parliament was conducted by Wm. Beachler. The subjects were further discussed by various members of the conference. Some of the entertaining features of the evening were a vocal duet by Miss Crunkilton and Mr. Slotter and a selection by the male quartette. Conference adjourned till the next morning.

#### FOURTH SESSION

J. H. Burnworth read from the 17 of John and led in prayer.

Minutes of the previous sessions read and adopted.

The committee on credentials reported one ministerial credential unofficially signed and conference voted to return the credential to the holder, unrecognized.

At the Bryan State conference held one year ago a committee was appointed whose duty it was to get out articles of incorporation for the Brethren Home. This committee made its report at the recent conference, which report was accepted.

A motion prevailed that the committee on committees nominate a board of five trustees for the Brethren Home to be elected, one for five years, one for four, one for three, one for two and one for one. The committee made the following report: E. J. Worst, five years; S. M. Loose, four years; A. D. Gnagey, three years; Wm. Beachler, two years and J. A. Miller one year. The nomination was adopted by conference, and the Board of Trustees was requested to meet and report before conference adjourned.

A motion was made and prevailed that hereafter it shall be the rule of this conference to elect all officers by ballot.

The election of evangelists, as provided by the amended plan of evangelistic work, was now taken up. It was the voice of conference that each

evangelist should be elected one at a time, and each must have a majority of votes cast. J. L. Kimmel, J. A. Miller and C. O. Witter were elected to this work.

The election of a Mission Board was next taken up. It was the voice of conference that the President of said Board to be elected for three years, Secretary for two years and Treasurer for one year. A. D. Gnagey was elected president; H. M. Oberholtzer, secretary and upon a prevailing motion E. J. Worst was elected treasurer by acclamation.

The election of conference officers was next considered. M. S. White was elected moderator; J. L. Kimmel vice-moderator. It was the will of conference that the rules be suspended and that the old college trustees of Ohio, namely Brethren Baily, Ruff and Kimmel be re-elected by acclamation. Conference adjourned to meet in afternoon.

#### FIFTH SESSION

The Friday afternoon session was opened by H. S. Jacobs who read from Romans 8 and led in prayer.

Minutes of previous session read and approved.

The final report of the committee indicated the following: Lay credentials, Harvey Shaffer, Annie Switzer, Pleasant Hill; Mary J. Wise, Middle Branch; Anna Burnworth, Fairview; Sarah Long, A. R. Beal, North Liberty; Sarah Keim, Louisville; E. J. Worst, Clara Miller, J. L. Hamilton, Ashland; C. E. Beekley, Fair Haven; Chester Merein, Ankenytown; Marshall Ventling, Buckeye City; M. D. Kerr, Bryan; Dan'l Beachler and S. E. Shook, Dayton; Anna Fox, Miamisburg; G. A. Ruff, North Georgetown; Harry Stover, Gratis; Elizabeth Miller, Gretna; H. A. McEnvoy, D. L. King, Zion Hill. Ministerial credentials, Alvin Byers, Josiah Kiem, Louisville; A. D. Gnagey, A. R. Bemendfer, C. O. Witter. M. A. Witter, D. F. Eikenberry, H. M. Oberholtzer, J. A. Miller, Dyoll Belote, J. C. Beal, J. S. Braker, A. H. Lichty, Ashland; M. S. White, Pleasant Hill; P. J. Brown, Congress; H. S. Jacobs, Homer; C. E. Deffenbaugh, E. D. Burnworth, Glenford; Simon Miksell, Troy; J. H. Burnworth, Fairview; Wm. Beachler, Miamisburg; S. Keihl, J. L. Kimmel, Dayton; A. J. Baughman, Williamstown; S. M. Loose, Freemont; Wm. Keifer, Zion Hill; Issac Leedy, Ankenytown; Dan'l Hendrix, Mt. Zion. Credentials for unordained ministers, H. H. Wolford, Williamstown; G. E. Drushall, Homer; C. E. Beekly, Fair Haven; C. I. Shock, Dayton; L. F. Mason, Fair Haven and C. E. Weidner, Ashland.

The location for next year's conference considered and Dayton was the place selected.

A motion prevailed that J. L. Kimmel, Wm. Beachler and S. E. Shook act as the executive committee.

The matter of the Examining Board was next considered. Two members were to be elected, one for three years and one for two. J. A. Miller was chosen for three years and A. D. Gnagey for two years.

Tabulating committee made their report and conference accepted it.

The report of committee on resolutions presented and accepted.

The Mission Board made the following mission apportionments on the churches of the State: Ashland \$45; Homerville, \$27; Louisville, \$33; North Georgetown, \$20; Bryan, \$15; West Independence, \$10; Williamstown, \$17; North Liberty, \$13; Pleasant Hill, \$15; Fair Haven, \$27; Zion Hill, \$15; Middle Branch, \$27; Morrison Grove, \$7; Bethesda, \$15; Gretna, \$17; Ankenytown, \$26; Buckeye City, \$17; Elmville, \$5; Glenford, \$22; Mt. Zion, \$5; Fairview, \$33; Gratis, \$24; Miamisburg, \$24; Bear Creek, \$27; West Alexandria, \$17; Farmersville, \$12. This makes a total of \$515 for State mission work.

A discussion was, at this time, raised on the merits and advantages of a College Loan Fund for

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